



The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

✓mailed
3/8/2019
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March 7, 2019

Dear Ms. Melissa Ericksen,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order -
<https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116872>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Executive Assistant
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
803-896-5133
Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text [PSCAGENDAS](https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email) to [39492](https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email)

Melissa Ericksen

6 March 2019

South Carolina Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Dr.
Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: Docket #2018-319-E

I am a customer and a shareholder of Duke Energy, but I am not able to attend the public hearing that is to be held in Greenville on March 14, 2019. I would like to make my concerns about this issue known via this letter.

Duke Energy's request to increase rates in the Upstate and Pee Dee are excessive, unfairly distributed, and discouraging to electric energy conservation by its customers. An increase of well over 200% in the flat rate (in other words, for providing no service other than being connected to Duke's grid) is completely unwarranted. There is little doubt that we live in a time when energy conservation, in order to aid in preserving our beautiful state and its resources, is very important – yet this increase, applied across the board to every customer and not connected to the customer's actual electric use, would discourage conservation.

Duke's South Carolina customers are already paying an average of 9% of their income on electricity, which is 3 times what is considered unaffordable. The impact of another 200+% raise – just to be connected to the utility – would force many lower-income customers into untenable situations. Should they stop eating, or taking their medications, or driving to work in order to afford their electric service? Which would you choose?

I believe that Duke is attempting to discourage the use of residential solar panels and net metering. I have installed these panels on my home, mostly to help reduce dependence on fossil fuels for energy. I am now producing more energy than I am using – for which Duke should be grateful, it's free energy for them to use elsewhere. Renewable energy is what will keep our planet running as we go into the next decades, and Duke would be well advised to start investing in it, rather than gouging its customers and placing unbearable burdens on them.

South Carolina's citizens deserve better than this. This proposed increase is far beyond what can be justified and will be a terrible burden on our lower-income citizens.

Sincerely,

